

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14725 081751Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SIL-01 LAB-04
/048 W
-----016489 090104Z /65

R 081741Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1267
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW, GE, ELAB
SUBJECT: FRG UNION LEADER FACING TRIAL ON ESPIONAGE
CHARGES

REF: BONN 14426 (1975)

SUMMARY: HEINZ DUERRBECK, 65, MEMBER OF THE FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION, IS NOW FACING A TRIAL ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES BEFORE A FRANKFURT HIGHER REGIONAL COURT. HE WAS ARRESTED IN SEPTEMBER 1975, BUT RELEASED ON BAIL A FEW WEEKS LATER WHILE INVESTIGATIONS WERE GOING ON. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER CONTINUED INVESTIGATIONS, THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR GENERAL HAS PREFERRED CHARGES OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY AGAINST THE 65-YEAR OLD MEMBER OF THE FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION (I.G. METALL), HEINZ DUERRBECK. HE IS ACCUSED OF HAVING SUPPLIED MATERIAL AND DOCUMENTS COVERING THE LEADERSHIP SPHERES OF THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION AND THE GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB) TO AGENTS OF THE GDR MINISTRY FOR STATE SECURITY AT NUMEROUS MEETINGS IN EAST BERLIN FROM THE SPRING OF 1957 TO THE SUMMER OF 1975. SOME OF THE MATERIAL WAS FORWARDED TO THE GDR THROUGH A DRIVER WORKING FOR HIM FROM 1957 TO 1964.

2. DUERRBECK WAS ARRESTED IN SEPTEMBER 1975, BUT RELEASED A FEW WEEKS LATER ON BAIL OF DM 250,000. THE MONEY WAS REPORTEDLY MADE AVAILABLE BY THE UNION-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OWNED BANK FUER GEMEINWIRTSCHAFT. AFTER RELEASE, AND ALTHOUGH INVESTIGATIONS WERE CONTINUING, THE UNION REINSTATED HIM IN HIS OLD FUNCTIONS AS A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, RESPONSIBLE FOR WHITE COLLAR WORKERS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES.

3. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR GENERAL IS A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE UNION LEADERSHIP SO SHORTLY BEFORE THE METALWORKERS UNION CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 18-24 IN DUESSELDORF. DUERRBECK WAS DUE FOR RETIREMENT BECAUSE OF HIS AGE (65). THE DUERRBECK CASE IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF ESPIONAGE CASES WHICH HAVE INVOLVED THE GERMAN LABOR MOVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Remarks:
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